

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for utilizing a database, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - (a) accessing the database over a public network by a browser without downloading database software; and
 - (b) controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the browser provides commands utilizing hypertext mark up language (HTML) code.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is accessed utilizing a user interface (UI) application that is executed on a web application platform.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the UI application extracts database commands from a web server and presents the database commands to the database.

5. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for utilizing a database, the program instructions for:
- (a) accessing the database over a public network by a browser without downloading database software; and
 - (b) controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.
6. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 5 wherein the browser provides commands utilizing hypertext mark up language (HTML) code.
7. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 5 wherein the database is accessed utilizing a user interface application that is executed on a web application platform.
8. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the UI application extracts database commands from a web server and presents the database commands to the database and combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the web server.
9. (Currently amended) A method for providing a database utilizing a computer which includes a browser, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
- (a) authenticating a user via the browser by a user interface (UI) application;

- (b) providing commands from a web server to the browser for displaying a screen;
- (c) providing commands from the browser to the web server based upon user interaction with the screen, the commands from the browser including database commands;
- (d) extracting and sending the database commands by the UI application to the database, the database providing a response thereto;
- (e) combining the response with control commands by the UI application;
- (f) sending the combined response and control commands through the web server to the browser for display; and
- (g) controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the commands are provided in hypertext markup language (HTML) code.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the database commands are SQL statements.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the screen is a window to enter database commands.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the UI application is executed as a web application platform.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the authentication step (a) comprises the steps of:

- (a1) opening a URL in the browser;
- (a2) sending the URL to the web server;
- (a3) sending a request to the UI application based upon the URL;
- (a4) producing the HTML code for login and providing the HTML code to the browser;
- (a5) providing ID/password in the HTML code based upon user interaction by the browser;
- (a6) extracting ID/password from the HTML code by UI application; and
- (a7) determining if ID/password is authentic.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the authentication step (a) further comprises the steps of:

- (a8) opening a session if the ID/password is authentic.

16. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for providing a database utilizing a computer which includes a browser, the program instructions for:

- (a) authenticating a user via the browser by a user interface (UI) application;
- (b) providing commands from a web server to the browser for displaying a screen;
- (c) providing commands from the browser to the web server based upon user interaction with the screen, the commands from the browser including database commands;
- (d) extracting and sending the database commands by the UI application to the database, the database providing a response thereto;
- (e) combining the response with control commands by the UI application;
- (f) sending the combined response and control commands through the web server to the browser for display; and
- (g) controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.

17. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the first, second and third sets of commands are provided in hypertext markup language (HTML) code.

18. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the database commands are SQL statements.

19. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the screen is a window to enter database commands.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the UI application is executed as a web application platform.

21. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 20 wherein the authentication instruction (a) comprises the instructions for:

- (a1) opening a URL in the browser;
- (a2) sending the URL to the web server;
- (a3) sending a request to the UI application based upon the URL;
- (a4) producing the HTML code for login and providing the HTML code to the browser;
- (a5) providing ID/password in the HTML code based upon user interaction by the browser;
- (a6) extracting ID/password from the HTML code by UI application; and
- (a7) determining if ID/password is authentic.

22. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the authentication instruction (a) further comprises the instruction for:

- (a8) opening a session if the ID/password is authentic.

23. (Currently amended) A database service comprising:

a presentation layer, the presentation layer including a browser, a web server coupled to the public network and a web application platform coupled to the web server;

an application layer comprising a user interface (UI) application, the UI application is executed on the web application platform and is capable of communicating with the browser through a standard program code; and

a database management layer, the database management layer comprising at least one database which communicates with the UI application, wherein ~~access to~~ usage of the database is controlled based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.

24. (Original) The database service of claim 23 wherein the standard program code comprises hypertext markup language (HTML) code.

25. (Original) The database service of claim 23 which includes at least one back up database coupled to the at least one database.

26. (Original) The database service of claim 25 wherein the UI application extracts database commands from the web server and presents the database commands to the database and combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the web server.

27. (Previously presented) A database service comprising:
a presentation layer, the presentation layer including a browser, a web server coupled to the public network and a web application platform coupled to the web server;

an application layer comprising a user interface UI application, the UI application is executed on the web application platform and is capable of communicating with the browser through hypertext markup language (HTML) code; and

a database management layer, the database management layer comprising at least one database which communicates with the UI application; and at least one back up database coupled to the at least one database, wherein the UI application extracts database commands from the web server and presents the database commands to the database and combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the server, and wherein ~~access to~~ usage of the database is based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.

28. (Currently amended) A system for utilizing a database, the system comprising:
means for accessing the database over a public network by a browser without downloading database software; and
means for controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based on an agreed-upon schedule and price.

29. (Currently amended) A method for utilizing a database, the method comprising
~~the steps of:~~
(a) making the database accessible to a user over a public network; and
(b) controlling ~~access to~~ usage of the database based upon a mutually agreed-upon criteria between a provider of the database and the user.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the mutually agreed-upon criteria is cost-based.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the mutually agreed upon criteria is time-based.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the browser provides commands utilizing hypertext mark up language (HTML) code.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the database is accessed utilizing a user interface (UI) application that is executed on a web application platform.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the UI application extracts database commands from a web server and presents the database commands to the database.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the UI application combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the web server.

36. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for utilizing a database, the program instructions for:

- (a) making the database accessible to a user over a public network; and

(b) controlling access to usage of the database based upon a mutually agreed-upon criteria between a provider of the database and the user.

37. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the mutually agreed-upon criteria is cost-based.

38. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the mutually agreed upon criteria is time-based.

39. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the browser provides commands utilizing hypertext mark up language (HTML) code.

40. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the database is accessed utilizing a user interface (UI) application that is executed on a web application platform.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 40 wherein the UI application extracts database commands from a web server and presents the database commands to the database.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein the UI application combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the web server.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the UI application combines database commands with control commands from the database and provides the HTML code to the web server.